

## IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday February 25th, 2024

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### IRTS Updates

The IRTS Awards Committee is seeking Nominations for “Awards for Services to the Society or to Amateur Radio”, “Awards to IRTS members for Other Achievements”, and nominations for awards for construction. Details of these awards are available at [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie) under the awards section. Nominations should reach the awards manager, Jim Holohan EI4HH before the newly extended deadline of Friday, March 15th.

The IRTS Contest Manager Mark EI6JK would like to make everyone aware of the following changes to some of the IRTS Contest rules. Firstly, he would like to announce that all IRTS contests are now on the WA7BNM contest website. The following changes have been introduced to the 80m evening contest to encourage participation and to bring the contest in line with other similar contests. The creation of two extra high-power sections, one for SSB/CW and one for SSB only. This is in line with the 80m daytime contest on New Years Day.

Mark would also like to make you all aware of the following rule changes to the general rules. Rule 5.8: CW decoders may not be used, whether local or remote has been changed to Rule 5.8: CW decoders may be used, whether local or remote and Rule 5.9: Unless otherwise stated in the individual contest rules, the use of the DX Cluster or other spotting networks is not permitted has been changed to Rule 5.9: Unless otherwise stated in the individual contest rules, the use of the DX Cluster or other spotting networks is permitted. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mark EI6JK by email to [contestmanager@irts.ie](mailto:contestmanager@irts.ie).

A reminder about the EIDX Group’s upcoming DXpedition to Lesotho. From March 20th to the 29th 2024, DJ9RR, EI2II, EI2JD, EI3ISB, EI3IXB, EI4HH, EI5GM, EI5GSB, EI6FR, EI8KN, EI9HQ, EI9FBB, and PA3EWP will be QRV as 7P8EI. They will operate up to eight stations from 160m through 10m on CW, SSB, and digital. You will be able to QSL via M0OXO’s online QSL request system.

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### Soldering Workshop in Tog Hackerspace

Tog Hackerspace is hosting an exciting and educational Beginner Soldering Workshop. In this class, their experienced instructors will guide you through the process of soldering components onto a circuit board. You’ll learn about the different types of soldering tools, materials, and techniques. Their hands-on approach will allow you to practice what you’ve learned, so you can feel confident in your newly acquired skills. It will take place on

Sunday 3rd of March 2024 from 11 a.m. until 1.30 p.m. The cost is €35 plus fees. The venue is Unit 1B Motor City, Kylemore Road, Dublin 12, D12 KRW1. For more information visit [www.tog.ie](http://www.tog.ie)

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### **Maritime Radio Day 2024**

Registration is now open for Maritime Radio Day 2024 which takes place annually on the 14th and 15th of April to commemorate the almost 100 years of wireless telegraphy service for seafarers which ended with the closure in the UK of Portishead Radio on the 30th of April 2000. Commencing at 12:00 UTC on the 14th and finishing at 23:00 UTC on the 15th, this event is a great opportunity to QSO with ex-Marine Radio Officers and Coast Station Professionals who exchange details of their previous ships and coast stations. The mode of operation is CW, and all the HF bands are used including the WARC bands. A certificate of participation will be issued to all who submit results. Amateur Licence holders are invited to register and take part as “Friends of MRD”. SWLs may also submit logs. For more information, you can visit [www.radioofficers.com/mrd-2024/](http://www.radioofficers.com/mrd-2024/)

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### **UK and Ireland Contest Club**

The next 80m contest of the 2023-2024 UK and Ireland Contest Club season takes place next Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 8 p.m. local time on CW. The bonus station EI5G will be operated by Ger EI5KF and the second bonus station G5GEI will be operated by Bob M0ITR. You can learn more about this at [www.ukeicc.com](http://www.ukeicc.com)

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### **Upcoming Rally Dates**

Lagan Valley Amateur Radio Society is holding their annual rally next weekend on Saturday, 2nd March 2024 at Hillsborough Village Centre, 7 Ballynahinch Road, Hillsborough, BT26 6AR. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. and entry costs €5 or £5. Further information may be found at [www.lvars.uk](http://www.lvars.uk)

The Shannon Basin Radio Club rally and monster raffle takes place on Sunday April 14th. It will be held in the Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway as part of the 2024 IRTS AGM weekend. Doors will open at 10 a.m. and admission will be €5. Further information may be found at [www.sbrc.ie/agmweekend](http://www.sbrc.ie/agmweekend)

Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club's 40th rally will take place on Sunday 5th May 2024. It will take place at the Share Discovery Village located at 221 Lisnaskea Rd, Lisnaskea, Enniskillen BT92 0JZ. Doors will open at 11 a.m. Admission will be five euro or five pound which includes a ticket for the draw on the day.

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### **Strongest Flare of the Current Solar Cycle**

On February 22nd, the strongest solar flare of the current solar cycle was detected. Flares are classified according to their strength and the smallest ones are B-class, followed by C,

M and X, which is the most extreme. The largest flare in recent days, an X6.3 flare was the sun's most powerful outburst since 2017. What makes this more notable is that it was the third X-class flare in 24 hours from our very active sun at the moment. These flares cause temporary radio blackouts on the sun-facing side of our planet.

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### **Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News**

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam /at/ irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

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